



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Customer Service Region
P.O. Box 3700
Loveland, CO 80539-3003

AUG 03 2007

Mr. Bill Blind
Vice-Chairman
Cheyenne & Arapaho Business Committee
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 38
Concho, OK 73022

Dear Mr. Blind:

Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is proposing to rebuild the Granby Pumping Plant to Windy Gap 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, located near Grand Lake and the town of Granby, in Grand County, Colorado. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our upcoming environmental review process and to share and solicit information regarding cultural and environmental resources associated with the proposed project that may be of interest and importance to you.

Western initially determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) would be prepared for the proposed Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild Project on February 25, 2005. Western held open-house scoping meetings on July 28, 2005, and November 15, 2006. The public expressed numerous concerns about the impacts of the project. Based on a review of the public's concerns, Western subsequently determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be prepared.

The EIS will address the environmental impacts of the proposal to remove about 12 miles of existing 69-kV transmission line and the construction and operation of about 12 miles of new 138/138-kV double circuit transmission line (which would be operated at 69/138-kV), and adding a second power transformer. Alternatives, including the no action alternative, will also be addressed in the EIS. Western's EIS process will comply with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, as amended), Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500-1508) and DOE NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR part 1021). Because the proposed project may involve action in floodplains, the EIS will include a floodplain assessment and floodplain statement of findings following DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR part 1022).

The enclosed project description and map provide specific details on the proposed project. Western will assume the role of lead Federal agency for the preparation of the EIS for the proposed project. The project area includes private lands and public lands managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and Grand County. The U.S. Forest Service, Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee Grassland will be cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

Western has acquired the services of two environmental contractors, EDAW, Inc. of Fort Collins, Colorado, and RMC, Inc. of Lakewood, Colorado, to conduct studies and evaluate the natural, human, and cultural resources that could potentially be affected by the proposed project. Specifically, EDAW and RMC will prepare a biological report for the proposed action, conduct cultural resource inventories, and prepare a stand-alone cultural resource inventory report. The results of the studies, inventories, and evaluations will assist in the planning for the construction of the proposed project. EDAW will also prepare the EIS for Western's review.

At this time, we would like to hear from you concerning any interests or issues your Tribe would like to discuss concerning the proposed transmission line rebuild project and the proposed environmental review. We would also appreciate receiving any information that you would be willing to share with us on any unique, special, ethnographic, or archaeological resources or areas in or near the project area. If you are aware of any other Tribes, individuals, or tribally affiliated organizations that should be contacted, please let us know. We would appreciate receiving your input by September 17, 2007. A listing of other Tribes and individuals receiving this letter is enclosed. Western will provide you with a copy of the draft EIS when it is available.

Western is also planning a public scoping workshop to be held August 30, 2007, to further solicit input on the project. The scoping workshop will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. offices located at 321 West Agate Avenue, Granby, Colorado 80446-0170.

If you would like a copy of cultural resources inventory report, or have specific issues or concerns you would like to submit to Western, please contact:

Mr. Rodney Jones
NEPA Document Manager
Western Area Power Administration
Rocky Mountain Region
5555 E. Crossroads Boulevard
Loveland, Colorado 80538-8986

or, you may email them to: GPPWGP@wapa.gov

Thank you for your assistance and participation. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

JAMES D. KESELBURG
REGIONAL MANAGER

James D. Keselburg
Regional Manager

3 Enclosures

cc:
(with enclosures)

Ms. Sue Struthers
Archaeologist
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Mr. Frank Rupp
Archaeologist
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2103 East Park Avenue
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Ms. Carol Kruse
Special Projects Coordinator
Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland
U.S. Forest Service
2150 Centre Avenue, Building E
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Tribal Contacts

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma

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Northern Arapaho Tribe

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Jo Ann White
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Mr. Alonzo Moss, Sr.
Arapaho Language and Cultural Commission
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Mr. William C'Hair
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Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Chairman Eugene Little Coyote
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
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Mr. Conrad Fisher
THPO Officer
Northern Cheyenne THPO Office
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Northern Ute Tribe

Chairwoman Maxine Natchees
Uintah & Ouray Tribal Business Committee
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Ft. Duchesne, UT 84026
Phone: 435-722-5141 Fax: 435-722-2374

Ms. Betsy Chapoose
NAGPRA Representative
Northern Ute Tribe
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Shoshone Tribe (Eastern Band)

Chairman Ivan Posey
Shoshone Business Council
Shoshone Tribe
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ShoshoneTribe@washakie.net

Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Chairman Clement Frost
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
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Phone: 970-563-0100 x2404 Fax: 970-563-0396

Mr. Neil Cloud
NAGPRA Representative
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
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Phone: 970-563-0100 Fax: 970-563-0396
**NAGPRA Correspondence addressed to Chairman with a copy
to the NAGPRA Representative*

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Chairman Selwyn Whiteskunk
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P.O. Box 348
Towoac, CO 81334
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Mr. Terry Knight, Sr.
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Project Description, Purpose and Need

Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Project Description

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) owns and operates a 12-mile, 69,000 volt (69-kV) electric transmission line in Grand County Colorado that originates at Windy Gap Substation, located immediately northwest of the intersection of Highway 40 and Highway 125. The single circuit, wood pole, H-frame transmission line generally runs northeast along State Highway 34 and terminates at the Granby Pumping Plant Switchyard at the end of County Road 64.

The proposed project involves rebuilding this single circuit line as a double circuit transmission line and adding a second power transformer. One circuit will replace the existing 69-kV line; the other circuit will be a new 138-kV line. The Granby Pumping Plant Switchyard will be expanded to accommodate the second line and power transformer. Windy Gap Substation will be modified to accommodate the second line. This will be a joint participation project between Western, Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State), Mountain Parks Electric (MPEI) and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD).

Western owns the existing 69-kV transmission line and serves NCWCD loads at Granby Substation, Granby Pumping Plant Switchyard, and Willow Creek Pumping Plant. Western also serves MPEI loads at Granby Substation. Tri-State owns the Windy Gap Substation and serves MPEI. MPEI provides the electrical power for Grand County. NCWCD operates the Farr and Willow Creek Pumping Plants.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to:

- Provide a second source of power to the area between Grand Lake and Granby before failure of the 69-kV cable located in the Alva B. Adams water tunnel (also known as the Adams Tunnel Cable).
- Continue to provide reliable, looped transmission supply to MPEI customers in advance of an Adams Tunnel Cable failure.
- Ensure the electric system in the area will continue to operate within acceptable voltage criteria while accommodating future load growth and the operation of the Farr and Willow Creek Pumping Plants.
- Allow Tri-State to serve its local member (MPEI) with reliable power.
- Allow Western to serve its customers in the area in a reliable manner.
- Replace a 60-year old overhead transmission line and add shield wires for improved lightning protection.

Project Description, Purpose and Need

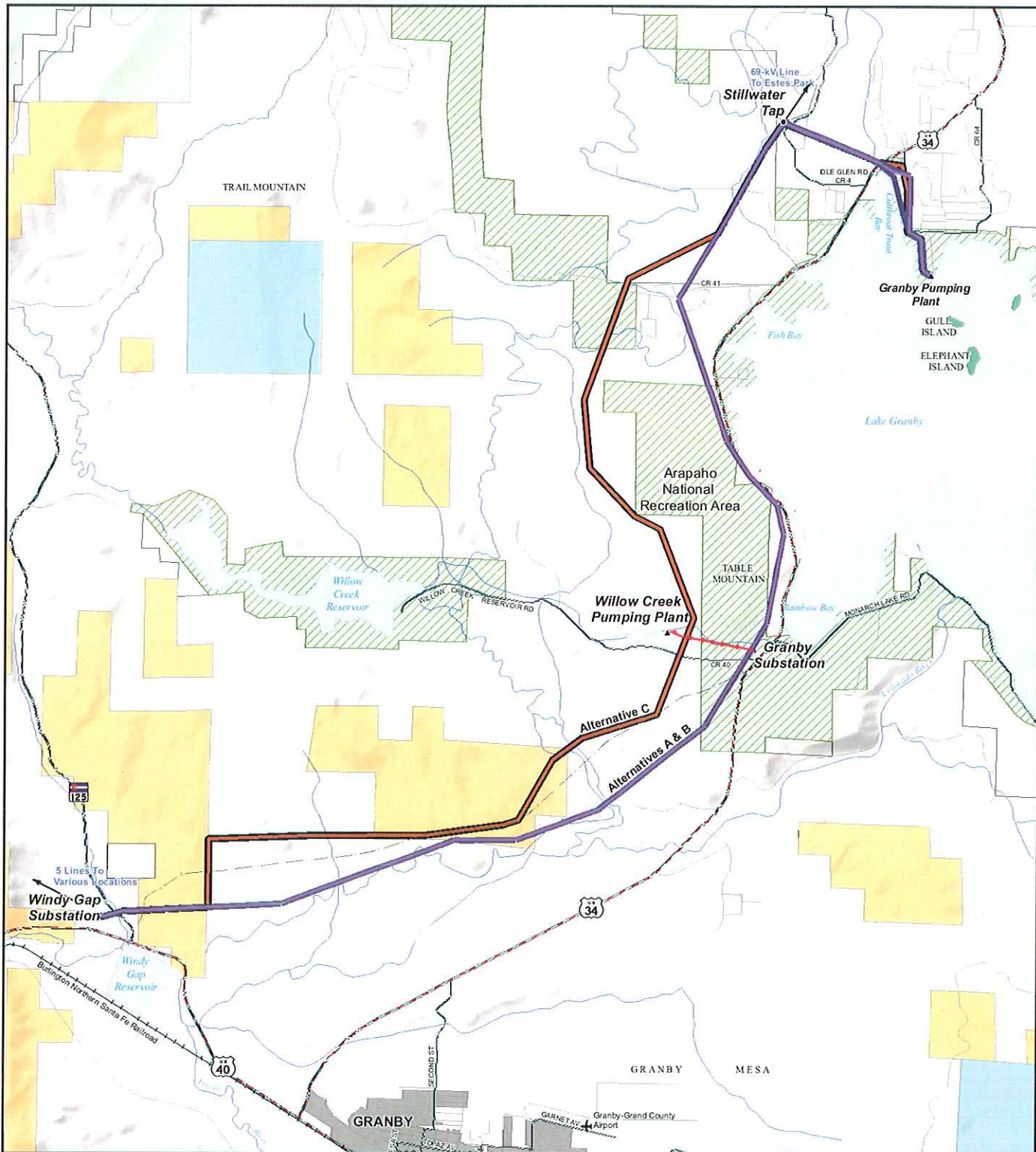
Granby Pumping Plant-Windy Gap Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Need

The Alva B. Adams Tunnel is a water diversion tunnel that stretches under the Continental Divide between Estes Park and the Town of Grand Lake. It also contains a 69-kV transmission line in the form of an electric cable owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and operated by Western. This cable currently provides a second source of electrical power to the area from Grand Lake to Granby by allowing looped transmission service between Estes Park and Windy Gap Substations. The Adams Tunnel cable has exceeded its predicted useful life and, upon failure, will not be replaced. The Granby Pumping Plant – Windy Gap transmission line rebuild project is being proposed to address the electrical deficiencies created when the cable fails.

The failure of the cable system will suddenly leave large parts of the MPEI system with only a one-way or radial transmission supply. The part of the MPEI system affected by this transmission system includes members in the area extending from the west side of Rocky Mountain National Park on the north, to the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch on the south, and from Byers Canyon on the west to the Arapaho National Recreation Area/Continental Divide on the east. Included in this area are the Towns of Hot Sulphur Springs, Granby, and Grand Lake, as well as hundreds of customers in the rural parts of that area, particularly along the Highway 34 corridor. Without completion of this project, these customers of MPEI would risk extended power outages especially during adverse winter weather due to the lack of an alternate transmission circuit to supply the area.

The project will insure the electric system in the area will continue to operate within established electrical criteria during motor starting operations at Farr Pumping Plant and Willow Creek Pumping Plant. Engineering Studies indicate that once the Adams Tunnel Cable is out of service, the voltage drop when starting motors at Willow Creek Pumping Plant will exceed acceptable limits by the year 2010, if load growth in the area continues at the current rate. This impact would affect both NCWCD and MPEI customers being served by these facilities.



- Transmission, Substations, & Other Utilities**
- Existing Substation
 - Existing Tap Location
 - Existing Pumping Plant
 - Alternative A, Existing
 - Alternative B, Rebuild & Upgrade
 - Alternative C, Reroute & Upgrade
 - Existing Willow Creek Tap (69-kV), Not Being Rebuilt
 - Windy Gap Water Pipeline (NCWCD)

- Jurisdictions & Surface Ownership**
- Private
 - Granby Town Limits
 - BLM
 - State Land
 - USFS
 - Arapaho National Recreation Area

Base Data Sources: CDOT (2004), BLM (2004), Western Area Power Administration (2009), USGS (1999)
 Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM), Zone 13
 North American Datum of 1983



Western Area Power Administration
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Western Area Power Administration logo and EDAW | AECOM logo.